

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Amendments

The Applicant has amended claims 1, 4, 6 and 7; claims 2-3 have been canceled. Applicant respectfully submits no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1 and 4-9 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter as the invention. Claim 1 has been amended and now contains the limitation a circuit switched node. Thus, the limitation "the circuit switched node" now has sufficient basis. The Applicant respectfully submits that claim 9 is now allowable.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant notes with appreciation the conditional allowance of claims 3-8. As the Examiner has suggested, claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form including all limitation of the base claims and any intervening claims. Therefore no amendments have been made to narrow the scope of the pending claims or to create any sort of estoppel.

Claims 4-9 depend from amended claim 1 and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 1. Therefore, the allowance of claims 1 and 4-9 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 1, 2 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Petty et al (5,862,131) in view of Carney, et al. (5,940,384). In order to expedite allowance of this application, the Applicant has incorporated the allowable limitations of

claims 2 and 3 into claim 1 and canceled claims 2 and 3 without prejudice. The Examiner's consideration of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

Claim 9 depends from amended claim 1 and recites further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 1. Therefore, the allowance of claim 1 and 9 is respectfully requested.

Prior Art Not Relied Upon

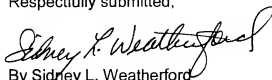
In paragraph 8 on page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner stated that the prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to the Applicant's disclosure.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sidney L. Weatherford", written over the printed name.

By Sidney L. Weatherford
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Date: June 13, 2008

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